

Letter Exchange pen pals often share secrets

By MARSHA TALLEY
For The Coloradoan

How can you share your great insights, your religious questions, your fears about health and immobility, your yearning for new experiences, even your rare insect collection, with people who truly care?

Through **The Letter Exchange**, pen pals of all ages share their sacred subjects with others who have similar interests. Published by Steve Sikora, three times a year, this publication, LEX for short, can help bring a sense of community to your mailbox.

LEX publishes short listings of pen pals looking for other pen pals. Each "ad" begins with a

Senior Service Finder

four-digit "LEX number" to respond to, as follows:

2102 — "Anyone else who was on Oahu that sunny Sunday morning in December, 1941? Where were you?"

3804 — "Golden California girl, multi-interests. Like friendly correspondence other areas."

If you have trouble writing about yourself, make someone up. In "Ghost Letters," respond as though you are the person being addressed. The following is a Ghost Letter listing:

3437 — "English woman in India, year 1862, seeks confidant back home. — Em."

Pen pals can be anyone: isolated housewives, homebound persons, business people balancing work-heavy lives, college students expanding experiences, frustrated writers, or other senior citizens.

Some want companionship. Some look for intellectual stimulation. Others just have fun.

You can write to any LEX number, including the listings in

this column, without subscribing. Just write the LEX number in the bottom left corner of a small envelope, and seal your letter inside. Attach appropriate postage, and remember your return address or LEX number. (Leave the center blank so Sikora and his volunteer assistants can attach a forwarding address.)

Then, seal that envelope in a larger envelope, and address it to **The Letter Exchange**.

Only subscribers can place a listing. Subscriptions are \$10 for a year or \$18 for two years. Sample copies are \$4 each. For information, or to subscribe, write to **The Letter Exchange**, P.O. Box 6218, Albany, CA 94706.

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